

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling
October 14, 2021

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling was called to order by Lori Cleveland, Chair, at 9:05 a.m., in the Lower Level B, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, and 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and on the bulletin board in the Licensure Unit Lobby on 6.30.2021.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present (8):

Brian Bierschenk, Member (on phone)
Christine Chasek, Member (on phone)
Lori Cleveland, Chair (in room)
Amy Eigenberg, Vice Chair (on call)
Victor Gehrig, Member (in room)
Natasha Robinson, Member
Mary Sneckenberg, Member (on phone)
Terry Duffy, Member (on phone)

Members Absent (1):

Jill Colegrove, Member

Staff and Others Present (4):

Kris Chiles, Program Manager, Licensure Unit
Carrie Oldehoeft, Board Coordinator, Licensure Unit
Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General
Carla Cue, DHHS Investigations

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Bierschenk, to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Duffy moved, seconded by Bierschenk, to approve the minutes of 7.8.2021. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Bierschenk, to enter into closed session at 9:15 a.m. to hear discussions of investigative/confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputations of the individuals. Cleveland repeated the motion purpose. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

9:20 a.m. Cue exited the meeting
9:33 a.m. Sneckenberg joined the meeting by phone
9:57 a.m. After Board Member agreement, Cleveland stated the meeting is now in open session

5. REVIEW, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OUT

OPEN SESSION: Applications, Summary of Mail Ballot Votes and Reinstatements

Deneen Denny, PLADC Applicant

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Bierschenk, to recommend a 1-year probationary license with the following terms/conditions: abstain from alcohol and controlled substances, random body fluid screens, comply with all treatment recommendations made by treatment provider and those in the future, Quarterly employer reports, and standard terms and conditions of probation. Basis for recommendation: Convictions and Diagnosis. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

Amber Leighty – PLADC Applicant

MOTION: Eigenberg moved, seconded by Gehrig, to defer the recommendation and request additional information. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

Donna Gardner, PLADC Applicant

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Sneckenberg, to recommend issuing the license with no terms or conditions. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

Trina Wells, LADC Applicant

MOTION: Gehrig moved, seconded by Eigenberg, to recommend to affirm the original probation offer dated June 14, 2021. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Bierschenk, Chasek, Cleveland, Eigenberg, Gehrig, Robinson, Sneckenberg, Duffy (8). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Colegrove (1). Motion carried.

6. UPDATES REPORTS

1. Un-registered Supervisor Clinical Hours—Chiles updated the board on the position taken by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, provided by Dr. Gary Anthone, Chief Medical Officer, dated 7.27.2021.

The Department analyzed the statutes and regulations and determined that as of June 15, 2021, registration of a PLADC's Clinical Supervisor is no longer a requirement for licensure as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC), regardless of when the hours of clinical work experience were earned. All other statutory requirement regarding the qualifications of the Clinical Supervisor and the clinical work experience must be met. This approach will allow for licensure of these qualified individuals, and will eliminate the obstacle of requiring them to repeat 6,000 hours supervised clinical work experience based solely on not having obtained registration for their Clinical Supervisor.

2. LANCE- Chiles reported that the Licensure Unit is moving to an internet based licensing system starting late 2021 and implementation ending 2022 called LANCE (Nebraska Licensing and Certification Environment).

LANCE will provide 24/7/365 access to real time license-related data, and provide licensees and applicants access to online services such as: application submission, uploading documents, renewal and reinstatement submissions, receiving automatic notifications of upcoming events and application status, updating contact information, and paying fees by credit/debit card or ACH through a PC, tablet, or phone.

An email address is required for licensees and applicants to utilize the on-line services in LANCE and to obtain important licensing information via automated notifications. Licensees will be receiving a postcard in the near future asking licensees to update demographics if out-dated.

3. Executive Order 21-12 and Directed Health <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Alcohol-and-Drug-Counselor.aspx>
Chiles provided an update on the current Executive Order which was put into effect on August 26, 2021, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts issued Executive Order 21-12 (expiring December 31, 2021), which provides waivers of specific statutes and applicable regulations due to a hospital capacity emergency.

Following highlights a few of the waivers:

- This is a time sensitive Executive Order, the order has an end date of December 31, 2021.
- Suspends the Continuing Competency/Continuing Education requirements for reinstatement
- If exam's are limited in availability, credentials could be issued on a Provisional full credential, with proof they have applied for an exam.
- Supervision can be done via the phone
- Direct client contact is not required during this time period.

4. **Discussion Relating to Developing a Jurisprudence Examination**

Board members will submit questions to Chiles for collection and distribution to the Board for review at the January board meeting.

5. **Justice Behavioral Health Committee Report**

Colegrove was not present to provide an update

6. **International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)**
<https://internationalcredentialing.org>

Robinson will be attending the meeting November 8, via virtual conferencing

7. **Reports: Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Actions, License Statistics, Examination Statistics, and Administrative Fees:**

Reports were included as part of the meeting agenda.

8. Schedule 2022 meetings:

The following dates were agreed to: January 13, April 14, July 14, October 13

8. ADJOURNMENT

Cleveland there being no further business to discuss she declared the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m..

Summarized by:
Kris Chiles, Program Manager, Licensure Unit